

A NEW SPECIES OF *DISA* (ORCHIDACEAE)

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ABSTRACT

Disa clavicornis Linder, sp. nov. is described from Mt. Anderson near Lydenburg, Transvaal.

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Key words: *Disa*, sp. nov., Orchidaceae, eastern Transvaal.

Disa clavicornis Linder, sp. nov., a speciebus quas Linder ad *Disae* sect. *Hircornes* ascripsit calcaribus ascendentibus clavatis diversa.

Type: TRANSVAAL—2530 (Lydenburg): Long Tom Pass, Mt. Anderson (-BA), *Lavranos* 9358 (PRE, holo.).

Terrestrial herb, 400 mm tall. *Leaves* cauline, 100 mm long at the base, the lower half sheathing, the upper half narrowly ovate, acute, semi-erect, subimbricate, grading apically into the floral bracts. *Inflorescence* cylindrical, dense, 150 mm long, 20 mm in diameter. *Bracts* as tall as the flowers, or at the base overtopping the flowers, very acute to acuminate, lanceolate. *Flowers* salmon-coloured, facing downwards. *Lateral sepals* narrowly oblong, $6 \times 2,8$ mm, spreading, subacute. *Dorsal sepal* galeate, galea 5.5 mm tall, 4 mm deep, spur ascending to erect, slender cylindrical, 7 mm long, apex strongly clavate. Petals borne erect, narrowly lorate, 6×1 mm, acute. *Lip* narrowly lorate, $4,5 \times 0,5$ mm, acute. *Anther* reflexed, 1.5 mm long. *Rostellum* lateral arms erect, canaliculate, 0.5 mm tall, stigma shortly pedicellate in front of the rostellum, tripulvinate. *Pollen* aggregated into massulae, surface colliculate to rugulate, with a finer rugulate-gemmate ornamentation (Figs 1 and 2).

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FIG. 1

Disa clavicornis. a, whole plant, $\times 1$; b, flower, $\times 5$; c, lateral sepal, $\times 8$; d, column, with lip and one petal still in position, $\times 8$. From Lavranos 9358.

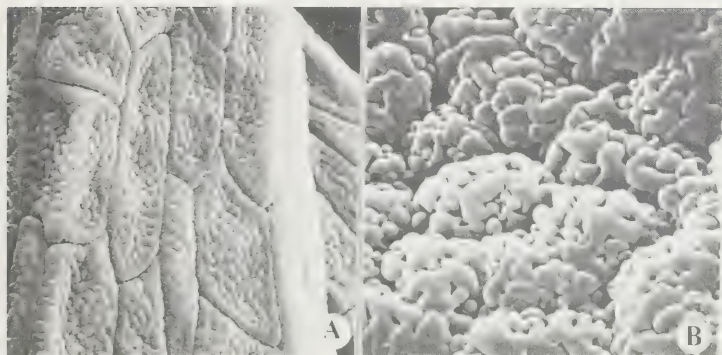


FIG. 2.

Pollen of *D. clavicornis*. A. massulae, $\times 1\,000$; B. detail of pollen surface, $\times 10\,000$.

Known from only one collection from the eastern Transvaal, from wet ground at 2 000 m. Flowering in February.

This species belongs to sect. *Hircicornes* Kraenzl., and is related to *D. rhodantha* Schltr. However, the clavate, ascending to erect, spurs are distinct.

The Mt. Anderson area appears to be very rich in endemic terrestrial orchids, as this is the fourth new species which I have described from there. No doubt further collecting will result in more interesting taxa being found.